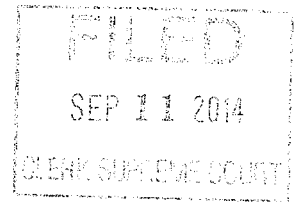


In the Supreme Court of Iowa

In the Matter of Request for)	
Public Comment Regarding)	
the Basic Skills Course)	Order
Requirement for Newly Admitted)	
Iowa Attorneys)	



The Iowa Supreme Court solicits public comment on the requirement that all attorneys newly admitted by examination attend a Basic Skills Course on Iowa law. See Iowa Court Rule 41.12.

The court adopted the course requirement on October 9, 2009. The attendance requirement applies to every attorney admitted by examination after December 31, 2008. Attorneys must complete the course within one year of their actual date of admission. The Basic Skills Course requirement does not apply to attorneys admitted to practice on motion. On November 24, 2010, the supreme court amended the Basic Skills Course rule to allow new attorneys to complete the course during the period between completion of the bar examination and admission to practice.

The Iowa State Bar Association's Blue Ribbon Committee on Legal Education and Licensure recently recommended, in conjunction with its "diploma privilege" recommendation, that the court investigate alternatives to the Basic Skills Course requirement. Although the court has recently declined to adopt the committee's diploma privilege recommendation, during the course of reviewing public comments on that proposal, the court determined that a review of the Basic Skills Course requirements is warranted.

The court solicits public comment on the Basic Skills Course requirement and whether it should be retained for persons admitted to practice law in Iowa after 2014, and whether the course or the

requirements for the course should be revised. Specifically, if the course requirement is to be retained, the court solicits public comment on how best to improve the utility of the course.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit comments regarding the Basic Skills Course. Comments sent by email must be emailed to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, must state **“Basic Skills Course”** in the subject line of the email and must be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on November 10, 2014.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2014.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By 
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice